

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: August 13-19, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights: 8/17: Ross conducted a monitoring flight in Western Montana.

8/18: Nelson conducted a monitoring flight in Western Montana.

8/17, 8/19: Bradley conducted monitoring flights in Western Montana.

8/15: A research team trapping and collaring black bears in the lower Clark Fork near Lookout Pass incidentally caught a yearling male wolf in one of their snares. The wolf was in good condition and was safely released from the trap. The R2 wolf crew was in Helena for a meeting so were unable to respond to collar the wolf but will be following up and possibly setting traps in this area as the bear crew is reporting there has been quite a bit of wolf activity recently.

8/17: Laudon captured and collared a yearling female wolf from a new pack in Glacier National Park. The pack has been intermittently visiting areas around park headquarters and employee living areas as well as the towns of Coram and Hungry Horse. There are a minimum of 6 adults/yearlings and 4-5 pups in the pack.

8/20: Whitehead, Panning, and Werhahn captured and collared an adult male wolf from the Cilly pack in the Swan.

Werhahn and Evans have been surveying for wolves on the south end of the Swan and for numbers and reproduction in the Quintonkon pack.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

8/16: WS removed a yearling female from a pack in the Dahl Lake area. Control is ongoing.

8/17: WS called in and shot 2 wolves East of Galen as authorized. The wolves were back in the Mt Haggin area and traps were set to try to capture a third wolf.

8/17: WS determined a calf as a probable wolf kill in the north end of the Gravelly Mountains in the same general area as conflicts reported in early August. Collaring efforts are underway.

8/18: WS removed the remaining members of the Poison Pack as authorized by previous control action.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES: Nothing to report.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.